

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US NUCLEAR TEAM VISIT

REF: TAIPEI 05013

SUMMARY: IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO DEPARTING TAIPEI, US
NUCLEAR TEAM LEADER G.F. HELFRICH HAD LENGTHY CONVERSATION
WITH DR. CHENGCHEN-HUA, SEC GEN CAEC, RE IMPRESSIONS OF
TEAM. SAME POINTS WERE MADE WITH DR. CHENG AS HAD EARLIER
BEEN USED IN MEETING WITH MOFA VICE MINISTER CHIEN ONLY IN
SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL AND IN MORE PERSONAL VEIN. FOLLOWING
HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON, HELFRICH MET WITH L.K. CHEN,
CHAIRMAN, TAIPOWER AND MADE SAME POINTS WITH HIM. BOTH
AGREED TO BRING OUR CONCERNS TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE
ROC GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY

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1. PRIOR TO DEPARTING TAIPEI ON SUNDAY, JULY 30, US
NUCLEAR TEAM LEADER G.F. HELFRICH HAD A TWO HOUR SESSION
WITH DR. CHENGCHEN-HUA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CAEC TO
REVIEW PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF TEAM. ALL
OF POINTS RAISED IN MEETING WITH MOFA VICE MINISTER CHIEN
WERE EXPLAINED BUT IN GREATER DETAIL. AGAIN, SPECIAL

EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON CONCERN ABOUT LASER ACTIVITIES AT CIST. DR. CHENG UNDERSTOOD AND SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE CONCERNS OF THE TEAM. RE CIST LASER ACTIVITIES, DR. CHENG

ASKED WHAT MORE THEY COULD DO ABOUT IT. HELFRICH STATED THAT CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTE AND ITS PERSONNEL WAS AN ROC PROBLEM -- THE US SIDE COULD ONLY APPRAISE THEM OF ITS FINDINGS. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT DR. MA HAD BEEN CONDUCTING LASER ACTIVITIES AT CIST WHICH FOR SOME REASON CIST MANAGEMENT WAS UNWILLING TO DESCRIBE TO THE US TEAM PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY COULD BE INTERPRETED AS LEADING TO A VIOLATION OF THE US-ROC AGREEMENT. WHILE THE WORK HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AND DR. MA HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY, THERE WAS NO WAY FOR THE TEAM TO BE CERTAIN THAT SIMILAR OR FOLLOW-ON WORK WAS NOT UNDERWAY ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE ROC GOVERNMENT MAKE IT UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR TO ALL PERSONNEL THAT IF THERE WAS ANY WORK UNDERWAY ANYWHERE RELATED TO LASER ISOTOPIC ENRICHMENT IT MUST BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY. DR. CHENG STATED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH DR. CHIEN, CHAIRMAN OF CAEC THAT EVENING AND HE WOULD RELATE OUR CONCERNS TO HIM. FURTHER, CHENG SAID HE HAD A PRIVATE MEETING SCHEDULED WITH THE PREMIER AT HIS HOME THE NEXT MORNING TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE TEAM VISIT WITH HIM. CHENG DID NOT EXPLAIN HOW HE PLANNED TO DESCRIBE VISIT TO PREMIER AND, AS HELFRICH LEFT TAIPEI BEFORE MEETING

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WAS TO OCCUR; HE IS NOT INFORMED ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED.

2. ON THURSDAY, 3 AUGUST MR. L. K. CHEN, CHAIRMAN OF TAIPOWER VISITED MR. HELFRICH IN HIS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF ENRICHED URANIUM FROM US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SIMILAR TO ARRANGEMENT REPORTEDLY BEING WORKED OUT WITH JAPANESE. HELFRICH REVIEWED STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT AND SEE IF ANY SALE TO JAPANESE ACTUALLY DEVELOPED AND NATURE OF THAT SALE BEFORE DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR DEAL WITH ROC. HELFRICH THEN MOVED TO DISCUSSION OF US NUCLEAR TEAM VISIT. WHILE MAKING SAME POINTS AS WITH OTHERS, HE PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LASER ACTIVITIES AT CIST. CHEN COMMENTED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT GENERAL TANG WOULD BE RETIRING SHORTLY. HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT NOTHING COULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH CONTINUED US-ROC NUCLEAR POWER COOPERATION AND THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO TAIPEI HE WOULD CONSULT WITH DR. CHENG AND THEN BRING OUR CONCERNS TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE ROC OFFICIALS.

CHRISTOPHER

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